

July 27, 2015

The Honorable Tim Walz U.S. House of Representatives 1034 Longworth House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Walz:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to reform our Universal Service Fund ("USF") mechanisms to support broadband deployment in rural America. The universal service program is one of the most important tools at our disposal to ensure that consumers and businesses in rural America have the same opportunities as their urban and suburban counterparts to be active participants in the 21st century economy. I share your goal of ensuring that the universal service program better reflects today's marketplace and technology in areas served by rate-of-return carriers.

As I explained at the Senate Commerce Committee's FCC Oversight Hearing earlier this year, resolving this issue will require all the stakeholders to work together and make hard decisions to reach consensus on the best path forward. Everybody agrees that the goal of any changes should be supporting broadband in rural areas. With that in mind, I directed my staff and staff members from the Commission's Wireline Bureau to meet with stakeholders in the rate-of-return community. We have encouraged all stakeholders in the rate-of-return community to work together to develop an approach that both has the widespread support of the rate-of-return community and meets the principles unanimously outlined by the Commission in our April 2014 Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking.

I share your concern about the state of rural broadband deployment. I also recognize the substantial time, effort, and resources that have been invested in this effort to date by stakeholders in the rate-of-return community to address these issues. I am committed to finding a path forward by the end of the year. But it is important to have a solution – or set of solutions – that creates the right incentives to deploy modern networks throughout rural America, meets the Commission's overarching policy objectives, and has the widespread support of the rate-of-return carrier community.

Page 2—The Honorable Tim Walz

I look forward to working with you to make continued progress on the deployment of broadband to consumers throughout rural areas a reality.

Sincerely,



July 27, 2015

The Honorable Peter Welch U.S. House of Representatives 2303 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Welch:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to reform our Universal Service Fund ("USF") mechanisms to support broadband deployment in rural America. The universal service program is one of the most important tools at our disposal to ensure that consumers and businesses in rural America have the same opportunities as their urban and suburban counterparts to be active participants in the 21st century economy. I share your goal of ensuring that the universal service program better reflects today's marketplace and technology in areas served by rate-of-return carriers.

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July 27, 2015

The Honorable Bruce Westerman U.S. House of Representatives 130 Cannon House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Westerman:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to reform our Universal Service Fund ("USF") mechanisms to support broadband deployment in rural America. The universal service program is one of the most important tools at our disposal to ensure that consumers and businesses in rural America have the same opportunities as their urban and suburban counterparts to be active participants in the 21st century economy. I share your goal of ensuring that the universal service program better reflects today's marketplace and technology in areas served by rate-of-return carriers.

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July 27, 2015

The Honorable Joe Wilson U.S. House of Representatives 2229 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Wilson:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to reform our Universal Service Fund ("USF") mechanisms to support broadband deployment in rural America. The universal service program is one of the most important tools at our disposal to ensure that consumers and businesses in rural America have the same opportunities as their urban and suburban counterparts to be active participants in the 21st century economy. I share your goal of ensuring that the universal service program better reflects today's marketplace and technology in areas served by rate-of-return carriers.

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July 27, 2015

The Honorable Steve Womack U.S. House of Representatives 1119 Longworth House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Womack:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to reform our Universal Service Fund ("USF") mechanisms to support broadband deployment in rural America. The universal service program is one of the most important tools at our disposal to ensure that consumers and businesses in rural America have the same opportunities as their urban and suburban counterparts to be active participants in the 21st century economy. I share your goal of ensuring that the universal service program better reflects today's marketplace and technology in areas served by rate-of-return carriers.

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Sincerely,



July 27, 2015

The Honorable David Young U.S. House of Representatives 515 Cannon House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Young:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to reform our Universal Service Fund ("USF") mechanisms to support broadband deployment in rural America. The universal service program is one of the most important tools at our disposal to ensure that consumers and businesses in rural America have the same opportunities as their urban and suburban counterparts to be active participants in the 21st century economy. I share your goal of ensuring that the universal service program better reflects today's marketplace and technology in areas served by rate-of-return carriers.

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July 27, 2015

The Honorable Don Young U.S. House of Representatives 2314 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

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July 27, 2015

The Honorable Todd Young U.S. House of Representatives 1721 Longworth House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

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July 27, 2015

The Honorable Ryan Zinke U.S. House of Representatives 113 Cannon House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Zinke:

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